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Atty. Docket No.: P66852US3

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A kit for preparing a catheter for draining a human bladder, the kit comprising at least a first proximal catheter section and a second distal catheter section, said two catheter sections defining a longitudinally extending passage therein configured to receive a flow of urine therethrough from a proximal end portion of said first catheter section which is inserted into a human urethra to a distal end of said second catheter section, the sections being arranged in a coextending fashion with a tubular protective member surrounding said first proximal catheter section when said kit is configured for storage, said second distal catheter section not covered so as to be exposed to the environment when said kit is configured for storage, the kit further including a joint for interconnecting the first and the second catheter sections, the joint defining a substantially liquid tight seal at a distal end of a substantially annular and longitudinally extending cavity provided between the proximal end portion of the first catheter section and an inner wall of the tubular protective member, the tubular protective member having an open end that is being removably connected to the joint and/or to the second catheter section and a closed end distal from said

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joint, so that, when the tubular protective member is connected to the joint, both ends of the annular cavity are closed so as to prevent any friction-reducing substance accommodated in the annular cavity from escaping through either one of said ends, ~~removed,~~ said proximal end portion of the first catheter section is being exposed to the ambient environment and ready for insertion into the human urethra only when the tubular protective member is completely removed.

2. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 1, wherein the sections are adapted to be moved between at least two positions with respect to each other, and wherein the second section, in a first position with respect to the first section, surrounds the first section and in a second position with respect to the first section, forms an extension for the first section.

3. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 2, wherein the joint is a telescopical joint providing a liquid tight seal between the first catheter section and the second catheter section while the sections are moved between the first position and the second position.

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4. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 2, wherein the first and second catheter section is provided with co-operating locking means for locking the position of the first section with respect to the second section, when the sections are in the second position with respect to each other.

5. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 3, wherein, when the tubular protective member has been removed, the telescopic joint defines a liquid tight seal between the second catheter section and an ambient atmosphere.

6. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 1, wherein a distal end of the second catheter section is provided with a removable liquid-tight seal.

7. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 2, wherein the tubular protective member is engaging the first catheter section so as to allow the first catheter section to be moved between the first and second position via the tubular protective member.

8. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 2, wherein the tubular protective member is adapted to be disengaged from the first

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catheter section, when the first catheter section reaches the second position.

9. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 2, wherein a distal end of the first catheter section seals an opening in a distal end of the second catheter section while the first catheter section is in the first position.

10. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 9, wherein annular cavity in one end is sealed by a sealingly engagement between the tubular protective member and the first catheter section when the tubular protective member is engaging the first catheter section.

11. (Withdrawn) A Kit according to claim 9, wherein the annular cavity is open to the ambient atmosphere when the tubular member disengages the first catheter section.

12. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 1, wherein the catheter has a hydrophilic surface and a liquid swelling medium is provided in the annular cavity.

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13. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 1, wherein the open end of the tubular protective member is detachably attached to an outer surface of the catheter when the tubular protective member is covering the first catheter section.

14. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 1, wherein said tubular protective member includes an outward flange at said closed ~~a distal~~ end thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 1, wherein said second catheter section includes an outlet opening in a ~~proximal~~ distal end thereof that is covered by a foil.

16. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 1, further comprising a ribbed portion between said first and second sections.

17. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 16, wherein the open end of said tubular protective member fastens to said second catheter section through engagement with said ribbed portion.

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18. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 1, wherein the open end of the tubular protective member fastens to said second catheter section when the tubular protective member is covering the first catheter section.

19. (Currently Amended) A kit for preparing a catheter for draining a human bladder, the kit comprising at least a first proximal catheter section and a second distal catheter section, said two catheter sections defining a longitudinally extending passage therein configured to receive a flow of urine therethrough from a proximal end portion of said first catheter section which is inserted into a human urethra to a distal end of said second catheter section, the sections being fixedly connected by a joint and arranged in a coextending fashion with a tubular protective member surrounding said first proximal catheter section when said kit is configured for storage, said second distal catheter section not covered so as to be exposed to the ambient environment when said kit is configured for storage, said joint defining a substantially liquid tight seal at a distal end of a substantially annular and longitudinally extending cavity provided between the proximal end portion of the first catheter section and an inner wall of the tubular protective member, the tubular protective

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member having an open end that is ~~being~~ removably connected to the second catheter section and a closed end distal from said joint, so that, when the tubular protective member is connected to the second catheter section, both ends of the annular cavity are closed so as to prevent any friction-reducing substance accommodated in the annular cavity from escaping through either one of said ends, ~~removed,~~ said proximal end portion of the first catheter section ~~is~~ being exposed to the environment and ready for insertion into the human urethra only when the tubular protective member is completely removed.

20. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 19, wherein the catheter has a hydrophilic surface and a liquid swelling medium is provided in the annular cavity.